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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Washington, DC) – *Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez (D-IL) issued the following statement after a cloture vote in the Senate on the National Defense Authorization Act, S.3454, failed to gain the 60 votes needed to proceed with the debate. The vote, generally along party lines, means that the DREAM Act immigration bill (S.729, sponsored by Sen. Richard Durbin) will not proceed as hoped for this week.*

The Republicans squawked about procedure and insisted on being able to debate every aspect of the Defense Bill thoroughly, but they showed their true stripes when they proposed a process of debate of unlimited amendments -- as long as no amendments were related to immigration. They do not want to debate immigration, they do not want to defend their mass-deportation approach, and they will do almost anything to avoid even discussing it with Democrats or the American people.

All we need is a small handful of relatively brave Republican Senators to step up to let the debate move forward, which could happen tomorrow if they choose to put the people before politics.

Senators would rather whine about election year politics and the boogeyman of "amnesty" than to do what is right for America's men and women in uniform and the young immigrants who dream of embracing the only country they have ever known.

The fight is not over and I will continue to support Sens. Harry Reid, Dick Durbin and Bob Menendez in their efforts to make the DREAM Act a reality.

Rep. Gutierrez chairs the Immigration Task Force of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) and is the principal author of the Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity Act ([CIR-ASAP](#) /H.R. 4321), a comprehensive immigration reform bill with 103 co-sponsors that is supported by the CHC and which includes a version of the DREAM Act among its provisions.

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